

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER, 1964

We Wish You A Joyful Christmas . . . And A Happy New Year!!!!

Christmas is here. On every side we hear it . . . we see it . . . we feel it. What an exciting time of the year it is. Who but can feel that it is a grand time to be alive!

The season surrounds us with the clear, gay sounds of melodious carols and the exhilarating laughter of happy children. It captivates us with its cheerful decorations ranging from scenes of Santa Claus and his reindeer to bright panoramas of sheer color flashing from lighted trees. It tantalizes us with the sight and smell of things good to taste and eat.

The season reminds us that this is a time to renew old acquaintances and make new friends, a time for families and good friends to be together. Surely this is a happy time of the year — even if it all isn't truly Christmas.

For Christmas is more than these. It is also a time of deep and moving beauty that touches the spirit, of simple goodness and profound love that touch the heart. Christmas reminds us that God cares for each one of us . . . that He is good and He is love. Christmas tells us that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace and the King of Love . . . that He has come to us and will abide with us if our hearts are but opened to Him.

At this Christmas Season we pray that Christ may be in your heart and in your living. May your Christmas be joyful and your New Year blessed by God.

Harold C. Henderson

Rufus G. Obrecht

W. J. Strickland

Lois D. Harry

Wilmer L. McCord

James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Ministers Have Second Chance Social Security

Ministers who have not signed up for social security may do so until April 15, 1965, under recent amendments to the law.

To become eligible, a clergyman must file a waiver certificate (Form 2031) with the District Director of Internal Revenue, report his earnings from the ministry, and pay social security taxes on the earnings for the taxable years 1962, 1963, and 1964.

For further information contact the nearest Social Security Office or send your questions to the convention office.

Ministers' Salaries Have Increased In Past Decade

Ministers' salaries are on the way up, according to a recent study made by Dr. William Kincaid Newman, executive vice-president of The Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers.

The average 1964 cash salary, based on reports from 2,477 members of the Fund, is \$6,754, an increase of 52% in ten years. In 1954 the average of 1,824 ministers' salaries was \$4,429.

"Happily," Dr. Newman said, "there is growing recognition by the churches that, dedicated though a minister may be, he cannot live on love alone."

The Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers is one of the pension boards of the United Church of Christ, a union of Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed churches.

While ministers' salaries were increasing 52%, the income of the general population went up about 41%. In 1963, according to U. S. Bureau of Commerce figures, the average annual income of all full-time workers in the American economy was \$5,190. In 1954 the figure was \$3,670.

"One reason for the apparently higher rate of increase in the ministers' salaries is that during the war years and the immediate post-war years there was a considerable lag in ministers' salaries as compared with those of other groups," said Dr. Newman. "The churches didn't wake up to the gap between the cost of living and the ministers' salaries until about 1950."

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

United Church Board For World Ministries Challenged To Lead Way In Missionary Field

A resounding challenge to the United Church Board for World Ministries to lead other American missionary agencies "in a broad ecumenical challenge . . . not tied by union conversations or present ecumenical commitments" set the theme of the 155th annual meeting of the Board, November 9-12.

The Rev. Dr. Virgil A. Sly, Indianapolis, president of the United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ), in the keynote address called upon the Board as both the oldest and the most progressive foreign missionary agency to "wipe out the lines of sovereignty and security" that make mission boards independent and to lead other denominations "in joint action in ecumenical mission that is as inclusive as the gospel as revealed in the purpose of God."

The Rev. Dr. Alford Carleton, executive vice-president of the United Church Board for World Ministries, revised his "State of the Board" address after hearing Dr. Sly to forecast joint appointment of missionaries by the United Church and Disciples Boards.

"Closer understanding and collaboration" between missionary agencies of American Churches, Dr. Carleton said, is made necessary by the minority status of Christian churches in non-Christian environments as Asia and Africa and the pressures being exerted on them by other religions, especially Islam, and by the rapid changes taking place in political and economic life.

"The processes of cooperation and union have always worked faster overseas than at home," Dr. Carleton told the 225 corporate members of the Board, meeting at Second United Church of Christ, West Newton, Massachusetts. In addition, he said, ties between missionary boards in America "have usually been closer than between the ecclesiastical authorities of the churches those agencies represent."

He noted the call of the Executive Council to the United Church instrumentalities to cooperate with other denominations in ecumenical enterprises wherever possible, and revealed that in reply the United Church Board for World Ministries has been engaged in talks, "already far advanced," with the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relationship of the United Presbyterian

Church in the U. S. A. for the setting up of cooperative work overseas.

In other reports on the ecumenical scene, the Rev. Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich, general secretary for World Service, reported that the United Church of Christ led all other American churches in per member giving to Church World Service and to the division of interchurch aid and refugee service of the World Council of Churches. "But," Dr. Helfferich warned, "the fact is the United Church is giving exactly a penny a Sunday per member to meet the desperate worldwide relief needs. And this church is first in giving.

To finance the Board's institutions and program in 29 countries, the directors voted a 1965 budget of \$6,130,042. This sum compares to \$6,800,000 expected to be expended in 1964, according to the Rev. Dr. Everett A. Babcock, treasurer.

The reduction is made necessary by the fact that the Board, along with other instrumentalities, is not receiving funds under Our Christian World Mission equal to the amounts allocated to them by the General Synod. A greater percentage of OCWM receipts is retained by the conferences for their programs than formerly was the case.

The largest allocation under the new budget was made for work in Japan and the Pacific Islands, \$1,063,297.

The next largest sum, \$949,501, will be expended in Africa. Missions in Southern Asian countries will receive \$672,000, the Near East, \$567,589, Latin America, \$313,914, and Europe, \$183,100.

Ecumenical work, in which the United Church works cooperatively with other churches or through the World Council of Churches or regional or national church councils, will receive \$840,525.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of Dr. Carleton's leadership of the Board, and more than 300 members and friends gathered to pay tribute at a banquet. Rev. Dr. William C. Nelson, president of the Board, presented a check for \$1,500 contributed by friends to serve as "seed money" for the establishment of the Alford Carleton Scholarship Fund.

Christmas Fund For The Veterans Of The Cross

We Care — We Share. This describes THE CHRISTMAS FUND. This is the way in which for more than sixty years the denomination has cared for retired ministers and their wives, and for the widows of these men. It has also met the emergencies for many active servants of the church.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND is given as a loving tribute to the Veterans of the Cross. Years served on a small salary, plus the effects of inflation, have produced inadequate annuities which must be supplemented. These special grants, plus the Christmas checks, are the answer.

Times of special need and critical emergency do come and these demand aid. It is then that the Christmas Fund goes into action throughout the whole year.

The churches of the Southeast Convention are reminded that there are retired ministers and their wives, as well as widows of ministers, of this area who receive checks every Christmas that are made possible by The Christmas Fund.

In addition, throughout the year, these, as well as active ministers and their families, have been helped to care for heavy medical and hospital bills.

Through the years the fund has granted far more aid to the people of the convention area than our churches have contributed to the Fund. This makes it all the more important for our churches to help support The Christmas Fund.

Last year was the best in the history of THE CHRISTMAS FUND. The needs of 1964, therefore, are being met effectively. The hundreds of expressions of gratitude testify to the necessity for and the effectiveness of the ministry performed.

You will want to participate this year. Do it directly or through your local church. Look for the poster and for the Christmas Fund leaflet. Send contributions to The Christmas Fund, The Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010; or to the Board of Pensions and Relief of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Make checks payable to The Christmas Fund.



The Southeast Convention Parsonage

Pictured above is the parsonage of the Southeast Convention. The address is 1455 Cornell Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia. 30306.

The parsonage is located in the section generally known as Druid Hills. Emory University is just a few blocks away. Although the address is Atlanta, the house actually is in Dekalb County.

The house was purchased approximately ten years ago when Dr. Erston M. Butterfield came to the convention as superintendent. The purchase was made possible by using the equity in the former parsonage, which was sold, and through a loan plus a \$4,000 grant from the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches —now the Board of Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

As of December 31, 1963, the mortgage stood at \$4,423.10. Each year \$1,000 plus interest is paid. Probably the convention will want to pay off the additional grant mortgage of \$4,000 after the regular mortgage is satisfied.

The dwelling is both attractive and comfortable. It has a gas-fired steam heating (radiators) system. While the house is not air-conditioned, its location and height help keep it comfortable during the hot summer months.

The entrance through the front door leads into a hallway. To the left is a large living room which runs from the

front to the back of the house. The windows overlook the front and back yard. Beyond the living room is the "sun room" or family room.

The dining room is to the right of the hallway. The breakfast room and the kitchen are located to the rear of the dining room. There are also a small pantry and a back porch.

Two years ago a half-bath was installed on the first floor at the end of the hallway.

The upstairs contains three bedrooms and two baths — one with a tub and the other a shower. There is an attic, but it is of no practical use except to house the television antenna.

The house has a basement. The superintendent and his family, with the assistance of Mr. W. J. Strickland, treasurer of the convention, recently built a bedroom in the basement for the two boys, Andy and Jimmy, doing the work themselves. With the addition of a hand basin there is now a half-bath in the basement.

The house, a two-story brick dwelling, is located on a small hill. The front yard is adequate and there is a spacious back yard. There are dogwood and pine trees on the property and there is also a garage.

The churches of the convention can be proud of this attractive and comfortable parsonage.

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Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor

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Superintendent's Corner

Although November is hardly half over, I have already begun preparations for the December issue of The Southeast News. Ordinarily this is a task set aside for the last week of the month or as soon thereafter as possible.

Today I have been reading through the back issues for several years. Actually, I started out looking up an item in the 1963 December issue and then just kept on turning through the files.

Two things in particular came to mind as result of this brief review of the issues since 1960. First, although a lot of articles published give news about our national fellowship and important events taking place within it both in this country and around the world, The Southeast News doesn't really take the place of The United Church Herald. Fortunately, it isn't intended to do so. But I am reminded that our church families ought to take The United Church Herald for news of the wider fellowship and for general articles of religious significance.

Second, The Southeast News does have a place in the life of the churches of the convention. It carries a variety of announcements and articles of particular interest to the churches and families of the convention.

But The Southeast News would mean much more to each of us if it carried more news from the local churches. This is where you can be of help. We can't print news about your church if we don't receive it! This is a plea to all churches to send "News to The News" regularly.

O. C. W. M. Receipts January-October 1964

ALABAMA

Alexander City, Antioch	0
Alexander City, Hunt	0
Andalusia, Antioch	0
Andalusia, Coldwater	0
Andalusia, First	0
Andalusia, New Home	0
Arley, Robertsons Chapel	15.
Ashland, Bethel	0
Birmingham, Pilgrim	346.*
Brantley, Indian Creek	0
Brantley, Liberty	0
Caddo, Cong'l.	100.
Clio, New Hope	0
Dadeville, Elder	101.
East Tallassee	375.
Eclectic, Watsons Chapel	0
Five Points, State Line	0
Garden City, Con'l.	200.
Hackleburg, Fairview	69.
Haleyville, Union Grove	54.
Hanceville, Mt. Grove	30.
Headland, Blackwood	265.*
Houston, Liberty Hill	0
Huntsville, United	865.*
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	0
Lanett, Con'l. Chr.	3,245.
Lanett, Huguley	0
Langdale, Con'l. Chr.	1,510.
Lineville, New Harmony	15.
Midland City, Christian Hill	0
Montgomery, United	480.
Moulton, Jones Chapel	0
Mt. Creek, Union	0
Phenix City, First	0
Phenix City, Russell Woods	30.
Pisgah	10.
Roanoke, Antioch	100.
Roanoke, Bethany	0
Roanoke, First	0
Roanoke, Forest Home	0
Roanoke, Lowell	300.
Roanoke, Mt. Zion	0
Roanoke, New Hope	175.
Roanoke, Rock Springs	0
Roanoke, Rock Stand	0
Seman, Balm of Gilead	0
Seman, Community	0
Shawmut, Todd	125.
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	0
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	90.
Town Creek, Old Liberty	0
Wadley, Beulah	0
Wadley, Christian	380.*
Wadley, Corinth	10.
Wedowee, Caver's Grove	0
Wedowee, Noon Day	0

FLORIDA

Baker, Good Hope	0
Baker, Pyron's Chapel	0
Bonifay, New Effort	30.

Crestview, Dorcas

25.

GEORGIA

Ambrose, Christian	0
Atlanta, Center	180.
Atlanta, Central	5,571.*
Barnesville, Fredonia	384.*
Baxley, Friendship	0
Bowman, Liberty	0
Braselton, Macedonia	45.
Bristol, Antioch	0
Buford, Duncan's Creek	0
Columbus, First	505.
Columbus, United	70.
Crest, Hebron	0
Demorest, Federated	300.*
Doerun, New Light	0
Doerun, Poplar Arbor	0
Douglas, First	0
Enigma, Christian	0
Gaillard, Pleasant Hill	36.
Hampton, County Line	60.
LaGrange, Hillside	0
LaGrange, United	905.
Meansville, First	0
Meansville, Liberty	0
Pearson, Union Hill	208.
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	515.*
Richland, First	0
Richland, Providence Chapel	0
Tifton, First	0
Tifton, Vanceville	0
Waycross, Williams Chapel	119.
West Point, Bethel	150.
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	0

KENTUCKY

Evarts, First	680.
Stearns, Community	0

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, Circular	935.
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TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, Pilgrim	3,539.*
Crossville, First	324.*
Daisy, First	0
Deer Lodge	78.*
Glen Mary	77.*
Knoxville, First	208.
Nashville, Brookmeade	200.
Pleasant Hill, Community	550.*
Robbins, Barton Chapel	96.*
Soddy, First	0

OTHER, CHURCH UNDESIG.

TOTAL	25,116.
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*Includes O. G. H. and S. O. S. Offerings

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth Week — 1965

Youth Week is a nation-wide observance by Christian Youth in the churches and communities emphasizing youth work and unity in Christ. It is a program of the denominations working together through the United Christian Youth Movement.

The theme for the 1965 observance is "Songs for a Small Planet." Youth Week is January 31-February 7.

The Complete Youth Week Packet costs \$1.35. It should be ordered from:

Office of P and D
National Council of Churches
637 West 125th Street
New York, New York, 10027

Payment by check or money order to the National Council of Churches should be sent with your order.

Every church in the convention is encouraged to observe Youth Week and Youth Sunday (January 31).

* * * *

Churchmen's Washington Seminar

The 1965 Churchmen's Washington Seminar will be held February 23-26, 1965, at the Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capital Street, Washington, D. C.

The seminar provides an opportunity for religious leaders to study the operation of the Federal Government at its source. It also offers its participants opportunities for direct contact with government official personnel through personal or group interviews and panel discussions. Attendance is limited to 300 persons and is open to ministers as well as laymen and women.

The registration fee of \$15 includes the cost of four special meals. Other meals and lodging are in addition.

For information write to: Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks, United Church of Christ, 110 Maryland Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C., 20002.

* * * *

Town And Country Convocation

The National Town and Country Convocation of the National Council of Churches was held in Atlanta on October 12-15. More than 50 people from the United Church were in attendance, including eight from the Southeast Convention.

Retired Minister And Wife Have Anniversary

The Reverend and Mrs. Samuel M. Penn observed their 64th wedding anniversary on November 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Penn were married at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Durham, in Acworth, Ga. Mr. Penn is a native of Dallas, Ga.

It is interesting to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Penn already had six of the ten children, eight sons and two daughters, who were to be born to them when he enrolled at the Atlanta Theological Seminary, from which he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Biblical Literature.

The Rev. and Mrs. Penn served churches in Georgia and Alabama of the Southeast Convention and in North Carolina in the Southern Convention. He was serving the church in Richland, Ga., at the time of his retirement.

Mrs. Penn has been an invalid for several years and recently Mr. Penn was hospitalized for surgery.

A celebration in their honor was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Penn, 127 E. Broad St., Newnan, Ga., with whom they live, on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Penn Jr. and their daughter of Macon, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Melbourne Penn and their two sons of Lanett, Ala.; Mr. Walter Penn and son of Birmingham, Ala.; Mr. and Mrs. Buell Penn and their three daughters of Roanoke, Ala.; Mrs. Harris Coletrane and her son and daughter of North Miami, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Penn Jr. of Butler, Ga.; a brother, Mr. Harvey Penn of Forest Park, Ga., with his wife and daughter; a sister, Mrs. Kate Stephens of Atlanta, Ga.

Also present were many former church members, neighbors, and friends.

Of the ten children, all except one son are still living. Rev. and Mrs. Penn have sixteen grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Although he has not been able to take an active part in the work of the churches for several years, Mr. Penn has continued his interest and attends meetings when possible.

EXTEND YOUR HORIZONS
READ YOUR
CHURCH MAGAZINES

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education and Youth Work Committee of the Convention met in Atlanta on Saturday, November 7. The chairman, Rev. Robert W. Hendrix, presided.

The committee made tentative plans for a meeting of the Christian Education Associates during February and set the tentative dates of August 1-7 for the Georgia-Alabama Junior and Senior High Camps.

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Board Of Directors

The next meeting of the Southeast Convention Board of Directors will be held at the convention office on Tuesday, January 26, 1965, at 10:30 a. m., EST.

* * * *

Dr. W. Millard Stevens

The Rev. Dr. W. Millard Stevens has arrived in Knoxville, Tenn., and begun his ministry at the First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) on Sunday, November 22.

* * * *

Rev. Albert Henry

Rev. Albert Henry, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, represented the Southeast Convention at a Conference sponsored by the United Church Council on Health and Welfare held in Philadelphia, October 13-15.

* * * *

Southern Union College

Although Southern Union College is now operated by the State of Alabama there are two ways in which our churches can still be of help for the time being.

First, the Board of Trustees of (old) Southern Union voted to honor the scholarships promised students for the year 1964-65. The state does not provide funds for these scholarships. Therefore, the churches are encouraged to send contributions for this purpose in care of President Walter A. Graham.

Second, the Wadley Congregational Christian Church will now operate the Thrift Shop. Clothing for this purpose should be sent to The Thrift Shop, % Wadley CC Church, Wadley, Ala. This year the major part of the proceeds will be used to support the scholarship program at the college.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 8, Georgia

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at Atlanta, Georgia

Christmas Fund for the **VETERANS of the CROSS**



TO KEEP FAITH

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL RELIEF
287 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

THE BOARD OF PENSIONS AND RELIEF
OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH
1505 RACE ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19102